GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Disciplinary action against Sri M. Seethpathi Rao, FRO, (Retd), formerly worked in Visakhapatnam Division –Departmental Proceedings Under Rule 20 of APCS(CC&A) Rules 1991-AoC issued- Findings of the Inquiry Officer communicated – Defence statement received - Imposing a penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of one (1) year – Show Cause Notice issued– Final Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 139 Dated: 27-12-2018
Read the following:

1. From the PCCF Lr. Rc. No. 4289/2011/A&DC-1, dt.09.05.2018 together with a copy of Lr.Rc. No.4289/2011/A&DC-1, dt.29.06.2017.
2. G.M. No. 2298/Sec.IV/A1/2018, dt.11.6.2018.
3. From the PCCF, Lr. Rc. No. 4289/2011/A&DC-2, dt.01.11.2018
4. Govt. Lr. No. 2298/Sec.IV/A1/2018, dt.12.11.2018.
5. From the APPSC, Lr. No.776/DC&C/2018, dt.05.12.2018.

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ORDER:

In the reference 1st cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has informed that the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam in Ref.No.113/2011/L dt.10.01.2011 issued an office note to the Charged Officer Sri M. Seethapathi Rao, Forest Range Officer, with instructions to visit the area personally and submit a report for the purpose of giving permission to Sri Keerti Combines for film shooting. The Charged Officer was also instructed to take care and see that Flora and Fauna is not disturbed during the film shooting. The Charged Officer submitted a report to the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam on 12.01.2011. Based on the report of the Charged Officer, the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam in Ref.No.113/2011-L, dt.13.01.2011 issued proceedings, permitting Sri Keerti Combines to shoot their film at Sambuvanipalem in Kambalakonda RF without disturbing the Flora and Fauna.

2. The Charged Officer has failed to submit a factual report, resulting in according permission for film shooting in violation of Wildlife(Protection) Act,1972 and an Article of charge was issued to Sri M.Seethapathi Rao, FRO, formerly Visakhapatnam Division by the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF), Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad vide Rc. No. 4289/2011/P3,dt. 01.03.2011, on the following count:-

Article: "That he has exhibited gross neglect of duty in not submitting a factual report to his superiors, resulting in according permission for Film shooting in violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. He has also suppressed the facts of clearance of Flora, removal of Earth for levelling of Islands in Chamurugedda and erection of sets for film shooting before recommending to the Divisional Forest Officer for film shooting".

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has informed that the Charged Officer has acknowledged the Article of Charge on 30.05.2011 and submitted written defence statement dated 03.12.2011. The PCCF, A.P., Hyderabad appointed CCF., Visakhapatnam as Common Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam as Common Presenting Officer vide PCCF Proc.No.4289/2011/P3(i&ii), dt. 23.07.2011, for conducting regular enquiry.

4. The Inquiry Officer completed the Inquiry and submitted his findings to the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests vide APCCF/CF., VSP., Rc. No. 1820/2011/M8, dt. 21.02.2017, in which he concluded that the charge against the delinquent Officer was held proved.

[PTO]

5. The findings were communicated to the retired Charged Officer vide reference PCCF Ref. No. 4289/2011/A&DC-1, dt. 14.03.2017 and the same was acknowledged by the Charged Officer on 18.04.2017 and submitted his defence statement dt.26.04.2017. The retired Charged Officer has not submitted any valid/new points in his further defence statement.

6. The Charged Officer has retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.05.2014. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. After careful examination of the matter, with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer, the remarks of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, and material made available, Government have provisionally decided to impose a penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of one year on the charged officer, Sri M. Seethapathi Rao, FRO(Retd), Visakhapatnam Division, under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. Accordingly a Show-Cause-Notice was issued to the retired officer vide reference 2nd cited and the same was communicated to the Charged Officer on 05.07.2018. The Charged Officer Sri M. Seethapathi Rao, FRO(Retd) has not submitted his further defense statement till date.

9. Government, after careful examination of the matter hereby order to impose a penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of one year, against the retired Charged Officer Sri M. Seethapathi Rao, FRO(Retd), formerly worked in Visakhapatnam Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P., Guntur
(with original record Rc. No. 1820/11/M8 in III volumes)
The Individual (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).

Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, (with ref. to Lr.No.776/DC&C/2018, dt.05.12.2018).
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER